COUNCIL OF ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES
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Budget 2003 brings good news for double cohort students

New investments create more spaces, support learning quality in Ontario universities

With the first wave of double cohort students due to arrive on their campuses this fall, Ontario universities responded enthusiastically to the higher education measures announced in the provincial government's March 27 budget. University leaders are confident that the new funding provisions, building on significant public investments over the past three years, will enable them to meet the challenges of the coming enrolment surge.

Key measures in Budget 2003 include a further round of SuperBuild projects, multi-year increases to base operating budgets, and the creation of a Quality Assurance Fund to support quality improvements in the teaching/learning environment, including faculty hiring.

In 2002, the government initiated a second round of SuperBuild. This year, the government has announced that these latest SuperBuild grants will create more than 21,000 spaces at 15 institutions around the province (nine of them universities), bringing the total number of new postsecondary spaces created under the program to 135,000.

"The Ontario government is delivering the resources. Ontario's universities can deliver the places," says Mordechai Rozanski, outgoing Chair of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) and President of the University of Guelph. "Ontario's universities will be able to continue the tradition, established over three decades, of providing a place for all qualified applicants."

Budget 2003's Quality Assurance Fund responds to the challenge of maintaining learning excellence in a time of burgeoning student numbers and continuing fiscal restraint. The funding, designated for universities – $75 million in 2003-2004, rising annually to reach $200 million in 2006-2007 – will give universities the financial leeway to begin making solid investments in quality improvement initiatives such as increasing their complement of professors, hiring more support staff, equipping classrooms, labs and libraries with up-to-date resources and maintaining and modernizing physical facilities. These expenditures are vital to creating an environment that fosters students' academic success, and the universities are working with government on the public reporting requirements that will govern the allocation of the fund.

For the third budget in a row, the government has increased operating funding for colleges and universities within a multi-year framework to reflect rising enrolments. Budget 2003 has allocated another $75 million for postsecondary operating grants through to 2003-2004, bringing last year's multi-year commitment of $366 million to $443 million. By 2005-2006, operating funding, not including the Quality Assurance Fund, will rise by 21% over 2002-2003 levels.

"These commitments will provide a substantial quality boost to university education in the province for the benefit of all Ontarians," says Dr. Rozanski. "With full growth funding and a substantial, multi-year quality fund commitment, our universities will be able to provide students with a better teaching and learning environment throughout their four years of undergraduate study."

Students will not be the only beneficiaries of the government's investment in learning quality, adds Dr. Rozanski. The new faculty and staff that universities are now in a position to hire will not only provide a better educational experience for the double cohort, but will also enhance Ontario's research and innovation capacity.

Budget 2003 also elaborated on last year's Budget and Throne Speech commitment to assist academically qualified students who lack the financial resources to pursue postsecondary education. The government has committed $400 million to support phase 2 of the highly successful Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund. The program is expected to benefit some 400,000 students over the course of the next decade.

The latest budget culminates two years of preparatory work by the universities and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Ontario universities expect to be able to accommodate 90% of the students applying for admission this September – a ratio of applicants to regis-

trants that falls within the 65 to 71% range that has been the norm since 1992. "Getting universities to the position of enrolling the normal proportion of applicants from Ontario high schools in the double cohort year is a remarkable achievement," says COU President Jon Clark.

"Ultimately, it's all about the deans," says Richard Van Loon, President of Carleton University and incoming Chair of Council. "These initiatives will bring us closer to our goal of giving Ontario students a university education that matches the quality provided by the best public universities on the continent."

Universities announce their readiness to accommodate 70,000 double cohort students this fall

Government investments enable universities to plan for increased quality

Presidents of Ontario universities, with Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Dianne Cunningham, confirmed that plans are in place to accommodate 70,000 Ontario high school graduates at Ontario universities this coming September. The message was conveyed at a press conference at the University of Toronto on May 2, 2003.

The announcement represents the successful completion of a multi-

INVESTMENTS IN ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

Provincial Budget Initiatives: 2000 to 2003

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

2000

SuperBuild: $286 million increase to the 1999 allocation of $742 million. The increase includes $231 million for new capital projects and $55 million for a "modernization fund" – distribution based on full time equivalent enrolments in 1998/99. Capital expenditure commitments for postsecondary education in the 1999 and 2000 budgets total $510.6 million, approximately two-thirds of which is targeted to universities.

2001

Facilities renewal: $100 million to help colleges and universities address deferred maintenance backlogs.

2002, 2003

SuperBuild: Budget 2003 provided details on the second round of SuperBuild funding announced in Budget 2002: $180 million for 21,484 additional spaces in Ontario colleges and universities, bringing the total number of new spaces created under the program to 135,000 and the total provincial investment to $2.6 billion.

INVESTMENT IN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

2000

Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund: doubled to $100 million for 2000-2001.

Ontario Innovation Trust: increased by $500 million to $790 million.

Premier's Research Excellence Awards: doubled to $10 million for remaining seven years of program.

Research Performance Fund: established to support research overhead costs for Ontario-sponsored research at colleges, universities and research institutes – $50 million annually.

2001

Premier's Platinum Awards: Two new annual awards to help Ontario universities compete better globally in attracting and retaining world-class senior researchers.

2002

Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund: increased by $250 million over five years.
Ontario Innovation Trust: increased by $300 million.
Research Performance Fund: increased by $2 million annually.

INVESTMENT IN STUDENT ASSISTANCE

2000

Student earnings for scholarship income and study-period employment: increase in exemptions.

Ontario Work-Study Program: doubled to $10.8 million.

Ontario Graduate Scholarships: increase in number and value.

2002, 2003

Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund (OSOTF): $400 million to support phase 2 of OSOTF, which will enable an estimated 100,000 students to attend college or university over the next decade. Phase 1 was first introduced in the 1996 provincial budget to help universities create institutional endowment funds for student assistance.

Help for students with learning disabilities: Government to build on its investments in postsecondary special support programs, raising program expenditure to $14 million annually.

INVESTMENT IN OPERATING GRANTS

2001

Full funding for increased enrolment: Operating funding for colleges and universities to increase by $293 million by 2003-2004 – directly proportional to the anticipated enrolment growth.

2002

Full funding for extra seats enrolled student: Government augments its 2001 commitment by $75 million based on revised, higher enrolment projections. Operating funding for colleges and universities to increase by $368 million (over 2000-2001 levels) by 2003-2004.

2003

Further operating funding increases: Government augments its 2001 and 2002 commitments by an additional $75 million. Operating funding for colleges and universities will now increase by $443 million (over 2000-2001 levels) by 2003-2004. By 2005-2006, this funding will rise by 21% over 2002-2003 levels.

Quality Assurance Fund: $75 million for universities in 2003-2004, rising annually to reach $200 million in 2006-2007, for investment in faculty hiring, new learning resources, equipment upgrades and student services.

staged planning process to provide all qualified students with the opportunity to pursue a university education. University government Enrolment Target Agreements (ETAs) outline the specific number of additional students that each university is committed to enrolling. Provincial investment in the universities thro[illegible] per-full-time-student, which supports the expansion/upgrade of campus teaching facilities and the new Quality Assurance Fund, which supports faculty/staff hiring and the acquisition of additional learning resources, will help the universities deliver an effective educational experience to a larger student population.

"The government is ensuring that the resources are available. The province's universities, in turn, are delivering the increased spaces," said COU Chair Mordechai Rozanski. "To do this, given the dramatic increase in numbers, is an extraordinary achievement."

Applications to Ontario universities for fall 2003 admission have increased by approximately 46% over the same time last year. The increase is largely due to secondary school reform, which will see university-bound students from the old (five-year) and new (four-year) curriculum both seeking admission at the same time until at least the middle of this decade. Some 102,000 of these double-cohort students have applied for admission to an Ontario university this fall. If the historical proportion of applicants to registrants is maintained, about 68% will actually register, resulting in an incoming class of almost 70,000 students.

"Students and their parents have been asking about student prospects

Among the attendees at the May 5 press conference were (l to r): Jon Clark, President of COU; Lorna Marsden, President of York University; Judith Wadsworth, President of Laurentian University; Paul Davenport, President of the University of Western Ontario; Dianne Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; Mordechai Rozanski, Chair of COU and President of the University of Guelph; Robert Prichard, President of the University of Toronto; and Ron Southwood, President of the Ontario College of Art & Design.

for admission to an Ontario university this year, and it is immensely gratifying to be able to give them the assurance that they can expect opportunities for admission that are comparable to those for the students who have gone before them," said Dr. Rozanski.

"The government's significant investments have enhanced the universities' capacity to accommodate additional students and provide them with the quality education they deserve," said Jon Clark, President of Council. "This is an investment in the future well-being of this province and its people."

At an earlier stage of the joint planning process for the arrival of the double cohort, Minister Cunningham stated that the government's goal was to "put Ontario at the forefront in Canada in building a postsecondary system that will prepare our students for the opportunities of the 21st century."

COU commissions study on graduate education supply and demand

A major COU-commissioned study on graduate education supply and demand in Ontario is now underway. The study, being undertaken by BearingPoint (formerly KPMG Consulting), will use various scenarios to project the growth over the coming decade of student demand for graduate education, and workforce demand (private and public sectors) for employees with graduate degrees. It will also assess the capacity of Ontario universities to accommodate the projected demand and to deliver the requisite numbers of graduates. The work is being overseen by a steering committee chaired by University of Western Ontario President Paul Davenport.

Newest round of SuperBuild creates 21,484 new student spaces at 13 institutions

The government is investing $190 million to create 21,484 more student spaces at nine universities and four colleges around Ontario through its newest round of SuperBuild funding.

Launched in February 2000, SuperBuild has provided the largest public capital investment in Ontario's postsecondary sector in more than 30 years. In partnership with individual institutions and their private funding partners, SuperBuild is financing the construction of new academic buildings and facility upgrades to accommodate vastly higher enrolments during this decade and beyond. Ontario is anticipating a 27% jump in university enrolments by 2010, which translates into upwards of 90,000 additional students seeking space on provincial campuses.

The newest round of commitments, announced on April 14, 2003, will bring the government's total investment in the program to $2.6 billion. When these 13 projects are completed, a total of 135,000 new postsecondary spaces will have been created province-wide.

The initiative follows on the government's 2002 commitment to increase the number of spaces "where they are needed" in response to higher than projected enrolments for the double cohort years.

The universities to receive funding for new projects are Brock, Guelph, McMaster, Ottawa, Ryerson, Toronto, Western, Wilfrid Laurier and York. The government expects its overall $190 million commitment to be matched by $202 million in partner contributions, bringing the value of this most recent investment in postsecondary expansion to $392 million.

2003 University Applicant Survey now underway

In concert with Acumen Research Group Inc., COU is undertaking its second annual joint survey of all first-year undergraduate applicants to Ontario universities. The primary purpose of the survey is to understand the factors that influence applicants' choice of institution, enabling the universities to better meet the information and service needs of incoming students. The survey data will also be analyzed to develop an applicant profile. A steering committee, with representation from both the universities and Acumen, is providing advice on the content and administration of the survey. Survey results will be released to the universities by the end of summer, followed by a summary report later in the year.

The current study builds on the work of the 2002 University Applicant Survey, available in summary form on the COU web site (www.cou.on.ca).

University of Ontario Institute of Technology joins COU

At its April 25th meeting, Council approved the motion to admit the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) as a member of COU, effective July 1, 2003. UOIT was recently established by the provincial legislature.

In becoming COU's 18th member university, UOIT also gains membership in 28 affiliate organizations which, representing key academic and administrative functions common to all institutions, promote cooperation and effective self-management within the Ontario university sector.

Secondary school update: Marks from two curriculum streams virtually identical

The Ontario Universities' Application Centre has carefully reviewed the marks submitted for secondary school applicants for fall 2003 admission and reports that the grades for courses in the two curriculum streams (Grade 12 in the new curriculum and OACs in the old curriculum) are virtually identical. The Centre has also looked at the averages of applicants and notes that 22% of the applicants are submitting a mixture of new curriculum and OAC courses. The average marks for applicants also indicate very little difference between the two streams, confirming that neither group of students should be at a disadvantage when admission decisions are made.

Quality Assurance Fund supports a better learning experience for students

Ontario university students will receive a better learning experience during their four years of undergraduate study, thanks to new funding for crucial quality enhancements in the learning environment.

As announced in Budget 2003, the government has established two Quality Assurance Funds, one for the universities and a second for the colleges, for investment in faculty hiring, new learning resources, equipment upgrades and student services.

The university fund has been set at $75 million for 2003-2004 and will rise annually to reach $200 million in 2006-2007. Universities are working with the government to develop a performance measurement framework that will determine the allocation of grants.

The fund will enable the universities to reinvest in those areas that are recognized internationally as the benchmarks of quality in university education. These benchmarks include top-calibre professors, qualified support staff and resources for teaching, learning and research – including well-equipped classrooms and labs and well-stocked libraries that make use of leading-edge technology. Strong student services and a safe, functional campus are also seen as crucial factors in fostering students' academic success.

Public opinion surveys show that an overwhelming majority of Ontarians consider these components to be the bedrock of a quality learning experience. In recent years, many parents and students have expressed the concern that the universities were insufficiently resourced to maintain learning quality as student populations grow. With the establishment of the Quality Assurance Fund, Ontario universities are now in a position to begin rebuilding their infrastructure of teaching/learning excellence to meet the needs of this new generation of students.

One of the most urgent challenges the fund addresses is the need for a substantial recruitment of faculty. Sector-wide, Ontario universities must hire approximately 13,500 faculty during this decade to meet the enrolment expansion, replace retirees and improve faculty-student ratios. Academic support staff complements are also in need of renewal following the heavy cutbacks of the last decade.

Ontario universities welcome the creation of the Quality Assurance Fund as a timely initiative to help ensure that Ontario students receive the calibre of education they deserve, and to maintain Ontario's standing as a competitive educational jurisdiction.

Newest "Success Stories" publication highlights federally funded university research

The Ontario Council on University Research, an affiliate of COU, has recently published *A Sampling of Success Stories of Federal Investment in University Research*. The publication offers capsule highlights of innovative research across the disciplines at Ontario universities that has been made possible by the support of federal funding agencies and programs – the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Networks of Centres of Excellence and the Canada Research Chairs Program. Federal support has enabled many of the researchers featured in the volume to leverage additional funding for their work through provincial matching and industry partnerships.

Success Stories clearly demonstrates that Canada is well rewarded by its generous support of Ontario university research, which is advancing knowledge and producing beneficial outcomes in every sphere of the country's economic, social and cultural life. The publication is available on COU's web site (www.cou.on.ca).

COUNCIL MEMBER NOTES

David Marshall assumes new presidential challenge after 18 years with Nipissing

David Marshall, who has been President of Nipissing University since 1990, and earlier served as Dean of Education, will leave the university after 18 years at the end of the academic year. Dr. Marshall will assume the position of President of Mount Royal College in Calgary.

After graduating with a BSc in chemistry from the University of Western Ontario in 1958, Dr. Marshall received his teacher education at Lakehead University. He earned his MEd (1974) and doctoral degree in educational administration (1980) at the University of Alberta.

Following teaching positions in high schools in Collingwood and Sault Ste. Marie, Dr. Marshall went on to serve as the regional educational consultant for the government of the Northwest Territories in Frobisher Bay, as Director of a Canadian International Development Agency project in St. Lucia, West Indies, as an associate professor at the University of Manitoba, and as Director of the regional services branch of the Department of Education in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

In 2002, the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) celebrated its 30th anniversary of service to the Ontario university community. At the November 28th meeting of the OUAC Advisory Board, Dr. Marshall was acknowledged for his contributions not only as the longest-standing Chair of the board – at a time when the Centre enhanced the efficiency and cost effectiveness of its services in the face of yearly escalating application numbers – but also as Chair of the OUAC Budget Committee.

Dr. Marshall currently serves as a member of COU's Executive Committee and Chair of the Standing Committee on Relationships with Other Postsecondary Institutions.

Council bids farewell to several members

On May 23, 2003, President Ross Paul welcomed members of Council to the University of Windsor, the site of the last meeting of Council for the academic year. Each year, one of Council's five regularly scheduled meetings is held at a member institution.

In addition to acknowledging departing university Presidents Mordechai Rozanski and David Marshall, Council bid farewell to seven Academic Colleagues: Dennis Forcese, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University; Marlies Mangelsdorf, Associate Vice President, Academic, University of Guelph; Jocelyn Aubrey, Department of Psychology, Trent University; Mary Thompson, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Waterloo; Terri Coyle, Department of History, Wilfrid Laurier University; Sorin Sabo, Head of the Department of Psychology, University of Windsor; and Catherine Wild, Dean of Foundation Studies, Ontario College of Art & Design.

Dr. Rozanski, in his last official duties as Chair of Council, extended best wishes to all and his sincere gratitude for the outstanding service of the departing members.

Dennis Forcese

Maureen Mancuso

Jocelyn Aubrey

Mary Thompson

Terri Coyle

Shelagh Tennyson

Catherine Wild

Farewell Mordechai:
COU Chair/Guelph University President winding down duties

On July 15, 2003, Mordechai Rozanski, University of Guelph's longest serving President, will step down from the position that he has held for 10 years. Dr. Rozanski, who was also a member of Guelph's Board of Governors and Chair of its Senate, will assume the presidency of Rider University in New Jersey.

A graduate of McGill University with a BA in history, Dr. Rozanski received his PhD in 1974 from the University of Pennsylvania, where he began his teaching career as a lecturer in American-East Asian Relations. He has been a Lily Fellow at Stanford and an American-East Asian Relations Fellow at Columbia University and spent some 29 years as a professor and administrator in universities and colleges in the United States.

Soon after arriving at the University of Guelph in 1993, Dr. Rozanski initiated a strategic planning process that helped the institution refocus its mission and attain national recognition for sustained academic excellence. Initiated in 1995, the plan was renewed in 2001 in a document called *Towards 2010*. The University of Guelph was ranked as the best overall comprehensive university in Canada by *Maclean's* both in its 1999 and 2002 survey of universities.

For the past two years, Dr. Rozanski has served as Chair of Council. Additionally, he has chaired the COU Standing Committee on Educational and Employment Equity and its Standing Committee on Government and Community Relations. The period during which Dr. Rozanski served as Council Chair has been marked by preparations for the greatest demand for university admission in over 30 years. Under his leadership, the universities have been renewed by significant government investment and are ready to provide 70,000 first-year students with access to a quality education.

In May 2002, Dr. Rozanski was named head of the government's Education Equality Task Force, which was charged with reviewing Ontario's $14.3-billion funding formula for the province's K-12 public education system involving two million students and 5000 schools. After a comprehensive consultative process, the Task Force recommended $1.8 billion in new investments in Ontario schools. Within days of the release of his report, *Investing in Public Education: Advancing the Goal of Continuous Improvement in Student Learning and Achievement*, the government announced an investment of $610 million in schools as the first response to what has become known as "the Rozanski report."

Dr. Rozanski will be succeeded as Chair of Council by Richard Van Loon, President of Carleton University, effective July 1, 2003.

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